

Title: Dealings [2]

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I smiled at her and also made it clear that she could bring a small escort with her for any fear of what lurked in Golgotha's shadows. And with that we marched out of their little capital. And so we returned to Skara Brae to begin the creation of documents that were to be signed the next day.

I was rather annoyed, as I had to wait upon the rooftops of Golgotha for this irritating Princess. I thought about, as a gesture of good will, sending a bone magi to Stormhaven to instruct her on how to be prompt and on time. But nobles have always thought themselves to be the most important creatures in this realm. Ironic that most of them hide within their buildings of stone giving out orders to blind rats to follow. I turned and glanced over my escort. Lynne Darkthorne, Crystal Ice, and Elrand Silverose all stood close to Eldred Jonas as they were to ensure his death should I be offended by this woman any further. What was once a proud soldier had been reduced to a man on the verge of total despair. Lynne's enchantment over him still held as powerful as ever. She had released the charms on the amulet that had bound him to

our lair, but its ability to reduce Eldred into a pile of ash in mere moments was left intact. A few of my good friends of the Order of the Ebon Skull were also about their dark tower as something else was being prepared by the Lich Lord.

And then the gates appeared all around Golgotha. The little witch of a Princess had brought a small army instead of a small escort. I glanced towards Crystal and Elrand and told them to be prepared to make an escape if needed. If I were to be double-crossed then I would take my property with me and return it to Stormhaven in pieces. They made their way slowly to the rooftops of Golgotha and I greeted the little witch at the Lich Lord's fountain of blood.

It was quite obvious that things were not going to go as I had planned. Shantel insisted on freeing Eldred of all of Lynne's enchantments before signing the documents that would put Stormhaven in a place I wanted it in. I was quite certain that if Lynne did break her complete control over Eldred that the forces of Stormhaven would lay siege to us.

That was not an option. I warned Shantel one final time that she would either sign the documents or Eldred would be lost to her forever. She was either stupid or stubborn as to refuse my generous offer here. So I laughed at her and a gate

suddenly appeared directly behind me. I went into it, and was followed by the other members of the Society. However... One of the clever mages of Stormhaven was able to dispel the gate before Eldred could be taken through it. I was most displeased when the gate disappeared and he was no where to be found.

But I had forgotten a most important thing. This event had taken place within Caina. And my hand extends far and wide throughout the entire city. I quickly received word from a former apprentice of mine that he was able to escape the forces of Stormhaven, and had taken Eldred Jonas with him. This one was one of the best students I have ever instructed in the art of necromancy, and my grooming of him during my time within the Order had paid off as he had taken my place within it. He was someone whose hatred of Stormhaven is almost unmatched due to recent events. His name is Dryzzid Losstarot. And he had sent word to me that he had what was mine. His instructions were to meet him at the old Cromwell Estate and he would return Eldred to me. It was then that a wonderful thought come about. Stormhaven had attempted to double cross me but they had failed as Eldred would soon be returned to me. So therefore I would return their property to them... After I would have my way with it...

I sat waiting for the arrival of Dryzzid along with my Eldred. Finally, a gate appeared. I marched to the creature called Eldred Jonas and began to apply both of my bone hands to his head. I informed him that if I willed it, then he would die in a most gruesome manner. I then released my grip upon him and threw him across the room and into the wall. I then gave my greetings and thanks to Dryzzid, he quickly departed. I gathered the disgusting rat from off the ground and opened a gate that lead to the Society's hidden lair.

Lynne Darkthorne and Vailanna both awaited me inside. Orders were given to Vailanna to guard Eldred, as Lynne and myself were going to discuss his fate in private. We both went into a room and decided rather quickly on our course of actions concerning Eldred Jonas and Stormhaven. They would all pay dearly for this act against me. We left the small room and I gazed upon Eldred. I smiled at him and gave orders to Vailanna to bring him to my hidden necromantic lab.

I stood over my many potions, mixing several of the beautiful mixtures together. I had a punishment awaiting Eldred Jonas that would last him his entire life. And this would be a most interesting experiment at that. For what I was going to perform was something I had only read

about in tomes.

Thankfully, I had all of the needed components to achieve my goal. Lynne stood behind me watching my every moment as Eldred stood away in a corner. In what seemed to be days, the potion that was needed had finally been created. I then went to a table and took a small black box out. Within this box was a creature very few had ever seen or heard of. Taking both the potion and box, I turned to Eldred and said a word of power. A gigantic decaying hand emerged from the wall behind Eldred and held him tight in its grasp. I turned to Lynne and asked her to release her enchantment over him. The spells of enchantment and charm were lifted, however the power she held over him in the form of the amulet would remain forever for that would be our final insurance against him and Stormhaven. I then walked over to the man and looked him in the eyes and smiled. His reply was spit to my face. This was a very bold creature indeed. I grabbed his head and forced open his mouth. The potion was given to him by force but very little of it was spilt. I chuckled and proceeded to remove the creature out of its little box. It had no real name but was commonly referred to as a hate-worm among those who studied the darkest aspects of necromancy. The creature looked much like a normal worm yet its color was that of

dark blackrock and it was the size of a small mouse. I held the creature high above Eldred's head and let out a small bit of laughter towards him. I then forced his mouth open and placed the hate-worm down into his throat. His face turned red and tears came down his face as the creature found a new home inside of him. And it would be the body of Eldred Jonas that this creature would live within until the death of its new host. If any attempt to remove or kill the hate-worm would incur then it would bring about the death of Eldred in a most gruesome manner. The potion he had just taken would make certain of that.

I stood laughing at the poor idiot and then snapped my fingers. The giant hand that held him quickly decayed into goo and Eldred collapsed to the floor. It took him a few moments to gather the strength to stand up. And when he did he looked at me in a most cruel manner, vowing to destroy me utterly. I laughed at this and told him that if he did wish to do that then now was the time. For I pointed at a small wooden box that was well decorated with jewels. For this was my phylactery. I continued my laughter and told him that all he had to do is destroy that and both myself and the spell of binding on the people of Skara Brae would be no more! Eldred Jonas said nothing. I asked Lynne to please go see how the affairs of Skara Brae

were, as a good portion of my time had already been wasted on this one man. Vailanna was ordered to take Eldred downstairs and await my arrival. I had a letter to write to the dear Princess of Stormhaven. The contents of that letter explained what I had done to Eldred, and what precautions she would need to take to remain safe and happy in her walls of stone. For if Eldred should become rather angry or upset then the hate-worm would be able to increase these feelings to a dangerous level. Who knows what a man like Eldred would do if anger and hatred entered his feelings? He would more then likely kill someone out of this rage, with many thanks to the hate-worm. The creature would not effect his feelings or outlook on life. But should he ever become angry.. Then woe to the poor souls that are around him when that happens... Lynne's amulet was still in place as well, but I would most prefer to watch him bring about the death of the Princess of Stormhaven before having him reduced to a pile of charred flesh.

continued in third volume